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Coöperative Bookbuying

The Association having requested the Executive Board to appoint a committee of five to consider the subject of coöperative bookbuying and to report to the Association, it was, on motion of Mr. Milam,

Voted, That the president of the Association be empowered to appoint a committee of five to consider the subject of coöperative bookbuying, and that this committee be instructed to make at least a preliminary report as promptly as possible in order that it may be considered by the Committee on an Enlarged Program for American Library Service.

Revision of Constitution

The Association having voted that the Executive Board be instructed to bring in a form of constitution to the Association a year hence, it was, on motion of Mr. Milam,

Voted, That the president, secretary, and retiring president of the Association be appointed a committee of three to make recommendations concerning a revised constitution for the American Library Association, and that this committee make a preliminary draft in time to present it to

the Executive Board at its midwinter meeting.

Definition of Librarianship and Statement as to Appropriate Salaries

The Association having recommended that the Committee of Five on Library Service and a special committee to be appointed by the Executive Board present to the Joint Commission on Reclassification their views on the work of librarians and on the salaries appropriate to the various library positions in the Federal and District of Columbia Governments, it was

Voted, That the Committee of Five on Library Service be instructed to coöperate with the Committee of the District of Columbia Library Association in presenting to the Joint Commission of Congress on Reclassification a statement as to the work of librarianship and as to the salaries which are appropriate for various library positions in the Federal and District of Columbia Governments.

Next Meeting of Board

Voted, That when the Executive Board shall adjourn it adjourn to meet not later than the September next meeting of the New York Library Association.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned.

COUNCIL

FIRST SESSION

The Council met on Tuesday afternoon, June 24.

The meeting was called to order by President Bishop, who announced as the subject for discussion, "Shall a permanent endowment be undertaken for peace time work of the A. L. A.?" The president stated that three five-minute talks would first be heard, upon "The need for taking advantage of our war time opportunities," and called upon Mr. J. I. Wyer, Jr., director of the New York State Library, who spoke as follows:

I will tell you in advance, that you may be assured of the impartial character of my five-minute contribution, that no questions have been asked of me as to which side I would be on, and I don't know whether the other five-minute speakers are

affirmative or negative; nothing has been said. I have been spending a good deal of time, listening right and left, and asking questions, to discover whether there were objections to or approvals of this endowment plan, and I have heard a good many things, and have made up my mind; my mind is this, that I am in favor of it first, last, and all the time. I have seen in the report of the committee of which Mr. Brown is chairman, and in the program, and other places, lists of activities that the Association might well engage in if it had the funds. I may not approve of all of those items there set down, and I may feel that some are far more important than others. That is my opinion. But there can be a program, necessary, wise, imperative, almost, if the American Library Association is to fill its proper niche in the development of the spiritual things of this country; there can be such a program that will, I am sure, be approved by

all members of this Association. The single item of publicity alone, in its various ramifications, would be a sufficient program for this Association, if there were no other.

I have listened to some objections, too, as to this, and none of them seems to me convincing. They chiefly harp upon the difficulty of carrying through an enterprise like this without the spur which the war and the patriotic motives back of the war provided in our campaigns for funds for war service. It seems to me that that very campaign for war service—the money that was raised—the work that has been done and the way it has been done in the last two years—furnish sufficient answer to those who object on account of conditions not being favorable for this work.

Here is the last contribution to my five-minute address. Of course I am sure it will be evident that it is not mine, when I read it, but in all fairness I want to say it has been "cribbed." It is, "It can be done."

Mr. Wyer was followed by Miss Theresa Hitchler, of the Brooklyn Public Library:

Mr. Wyer's talk has made it unnecessary for me to talk my full five minutes; I can reduce it to almost one. I can repeat in part what he has said, except that I have not heard what I should call actual objections. I heard discussed perhaps the inadvisability of starting this fund right now, or the advisability of going about it in a different way, perhaps, but I have not heard any objections, and I feel in a sense I have been honored by having people come to me and very frankly stating what they thought might be done or what they thought would be a difficulty in the way. I think if all of you had had the privilege I have had of standing on both sides of the fence, so to speak—in the enclosure and out—you would not hesitate for one moment to say most emphatically that certainly there ought to be a fund of some kind. I am not a sufficiently good business woman to say whether we ought to have an endowment fund. I would be perfectly satisfied, for example, if the Government, or some other well-meaning person, would give us an annual income of \$100,000 to \$500,000 for a stated number of years, but I do think that if the A. L. A. is not going to sink back and become a reactionary institution it ought to go right on and continue where it left off with the library war service. If you had read but a small number of the letters I have received from all parts of the United States, from little bits of towns that never before, I believe, knew there were such things

in existence as books and libraries, and heard the pleas that they made, or read the pleas that they made in these letters, to "please continue this work after the war," or "please send them books now for a regular library, because their soldiers had almost all been discharged and they could not possibly continue to disappoint them," you would feel that having given them an appetite for books, we must satisfy that appetite, and you would not hesitate to say, "We must have a fund of some kind to carry on this work!" It is not fair to the many that we have served, and in whom we have aroused an appetite for books, to snatch this mental food from them, at this particular time.

I am going to conclude by just quoting something that a professor wrote to me in a letter on this particular subject. "Hitherto as an organization," he said, "our development has been mainly intensive, and directed toward itself and the libraries it has cherished. Now splendid new fields are calling for our immediate attention." I do not pretend to say just what these new fields should be, because I think that needs a great deal of thought and a great deal of consideration, but I do think that a great many of the objectors—conscientious objectors—in the Association will be perfectly satisfied if we can present to them a very clearly outlined and detailed plan of what we mean to do, how we mean to get the money, and how we mean to spend it after we have it. I don't think really there will be one member of the Association who at the end will object to the fund, or what we mean to do with it.

The third speaker of the preliminary part of the program, Mr. Hadley, librarian of the Denver Public Library, then said:

Mr. President, I too am in favor of a campaign which we hope will result in a fund to carry on the work which has already been started. Most of you, I suppose, have read the preliminary report which is in print, from the special committee which met in Buffalo. I find myself agreeing in most particulars with this preliminary report. In the first place I think in case the campaign is conducted, it should not be a popular campaign such as we have had during the war, but it would have to be a campaign in an attempt to reach the people we think ought to be interested.

I find myself differing in judgment from the committee's report in which it favors a campaign for a fund to last five years, with the suggestion from the committee that we will then have something to show

in a future campaign for a permanent A. L. A. fund.

Personally, I think it will be just as easy to secure a permanent fund now as it will five years hence and in many ways, I think it will be easier. For instance, if we have a fund for five years and do a certain amount of work and then go before our monied friends and try to tell them what we have done, we will be at a disadvantage because what the A. L. A. does, is not the kind of work that can be well shown by statistics, since this is an educational work. If this Association cannot make a sufficient showing through what it has done in the way of war work, I do not think that five years' work will help us out to any great extent.

There are so many things to be worked out, I can't go into detail at this time; but the question whether there is to be a fund or campaign within one month, six months, a year—we have to decide now. I personally am for the fund; I think we will get the fund, and I think our past experience has shown that we can do it.

President Bishop: These considerations are general. We come now to particulars, to a selection from among the many items which have been proposed, and showing the things for which the American Library Association needs money. I may say that this selection is a very severe one. There were presented to the program committee some twenty-five or thirty different heads from which we have selected five for consideration, in order not to overburden the program. One or two things have been left off which may be even more important or fully as important as those which remain. This must not be considered an invidious or deliberate omission. The first of these items to be considered is "Greater publicity—coöperative publicity—employment of a publicity expert," and I shall call upon the chairman of the Publicity Committee of the American Library Association, Mr. Rush, librarian of the Indianapolis Public Library.

Mr. Rush accordingly read the following paper:

To be, or not to be, is no longer a debatable question in library propaganda. We have had library publicity thrust upon us! A great war attended to that (and thereby saved us twenty years of ordinary effort in acquiring a desire for it, or even

a vision of its possibilities). Suddenly it was spread out before our dumfounded, unbelieving eyes, and, almost before we realized causes or events, we were plunged with a hopeless do-it-or-die feeling into two great financial and several book campaigns based on publicity, and came up again on the right side of the ledger quite surprised to find that our local institutions, and our national organization as well, had become interesting in a nation-wide way.

This publicity, like unto a great torch, was signaling to the world the need of greater knowledge and wisdom among men. Perhaps it was flaming brightly before most of us realized the national and local need of its light. Nevertheless, no longer are our cause, our aims, our hopes, our ambitions entirely unknown. He who has run has read somewhat of the American Library Association and its library war service and of special library service rendered by libraries throughout the country in the field of practical vocational literature.

This great torch has become a powerful instrument in our hands. We are face to face with its future use. We are conscious of its wide-reaching benefit and influence, but we are wondering just what we shall do with it now that the war is over and whether it will fit peace times! (Or is it that we are not wondering sufficiently or efficiently enough about it?) Shall we hold it aloft in greater brilliancy, or indifferently lower it in the confusion of the reconstruction period and allow it sadly to flicker out? Are we content to rest on the temporary laurels of honor and dividends thrust upon us, or shall we "carry on" towards a far greater dissemination of the knowledge for which we are held responsible?

The war has taught us that a great educational program of publicity is now recognized as a feasible and proved method of extending library service; that people do read and obey posters, placards, leaflets, newspaper and magazine stories on educational topics; that advertising was necessary as a great step in the war period to obtain notice and that it will take a second great step in the peace period to hold the interest thus aroused; that a greater demand for further knowledge has been created and that advertising will be necessary to direct the demand to the sources of supply; that advertising creates good will, good will engenders confidence, confidence invites a larger volume of business, greater business insures larger appropriations and larger appropriations guarantee better results; and lastly the great war

taught us that library publicity is easier to gain than ever before and that we were blind to our opportunities in not striving after it extensively long ago.

Efficient library service is the efficiency of books raised to the Nth power. Books contain the untold power of worldwide ideas. Ideas hidden within a twenty-five per cent efficient library exert pitifully slight power—a power which, through publicity, may be multiplied a hundred fold. Publicity is the power which multiplies the power of ideas, of books, of libraries and of library service. Any librarian who will have none of it, who is indifferent towards it, or who is ignorant of it, is no longer a mere “keeper” of books containing ideas—he is a suppressor of ideas.

The great need of greater publicity, coöperative publicity and a publicity service bureau at headquarters is so evident that the citation of proof becomes almost ridiculous. If library service is to get in step with the educational progress which is now making such rapid strides forward, and if the library is an integral part of public education as we have been told sufficient times that it is, then it behooves us to develop our publicity program in a businesslike way. Seven thousand libraries, sixteen thousand librarians and forty thousand library trustees are engaged in library work in the United States, all working independently at decidedly similar work without the aid or benefit of a directing agency for their duplicated publicity. How pitifully amusing it would be to observe the struggle of the branch houses of a great typewriter company whose headquarters failed to furnish publicity suggestions and material to its local units! A library publicity service bureau is the logical way and the economical way to meet the situation confronting us. Library war service has demonstrated that librarians can coöperate on a businesslike basis. A central publicity bureau will furnish librarians the best possible opportunity for practical coöperation.

What service can such a publicity bureau render, under the direction of a librarian having adequate publicity knowledge and experience, assisted by an advertising expert skilled in the technical side of the work? Here are a few of the most important inter-related items:

1—Prepare practical, cost-saving, coöperative publicity material of all kinds suitable for libraries regardless of localities.

2—Edit coöperative lists in attractive and effective form.

3—Give advice and suggestions to libra-

ries facing publicity problems peculiar to different communities.

4—Prepare library service articles for any number of newspapers and magazines which would apply to practically any community.

5—Obtain a surprising amount of national publicity for libraries through magazines and metropolitan newspapers.

6—Maintain a clearing-house for library publicity, investigating current library publicity methods worth adopting.

7—Devote special publicity attention to the need for more adequate financial support for libraries, thus answering the backward looking librarian who says his library does not need publicity since it cannot meet the present demands.

8—Prepare and arrange for exhibits of library activities.

9—Establish relations with national associations and business organizations for the benefit of local libraries and library service in general. (For instance, recently Mr. Mathew Wold, president of the Labor Press of America and assistant to Mr. Gompers of the Council of National Defense, has been informed of the service which libraries can render to industry and the various trades through technical books for working men. Consequently, he is sending a letter over his own signature to all secretaries of the American Federation of Labor and an article under his own name to all the labor press of the country. Both letter and article were based on a letter and article written especially for his use by the special publicity representative of the publicity committee at library war service headquarters.)

10—Maintain an information bureau service to individuals and organizations throughout the country seeking special information on library service.

11—Institute occasional intensive campaigns for greater A. L. A. membership.

12—Develop the plans of the A. L. A. Publicity Committee and arouse among librarians increased interest in library publicity and its extension.

Through such means we can maintain and create still greater public appreciation of library service. Public interest in and endorsement of an educational enterprise is an asset of inestimable value. Not only the results but the institutional character, personality and purpose of our work must be emphasized. We must create prestige and build good will for the entire organization, arouse public confidence in the library as an educational enterprise, interpret the service of libraries to the public and furnish humanized, dramatized reviews of library activities. A publicity

service bureau designed to inaugurate a nationwide educational program is the simplest, easiest, most practical and advantageous method to accomplish such results. We have long felt the great need of its service; thought, talked, dreamed and worked for its realization. It is now within reach. All conditions, except financial support, are favorable to the extent of being ideal. Its old and new opportunities are urgent and far-reaching in effect, its possibilities are almost unlimited and its power cannot be measured.

The past few months have seen great mantles of opportunity fall on our shoulders. What shall our future be? What problems have we to meet? What high mutual resolve and purpose have we before us?

Having eyes which have seen these great visions, our responsibilities spur us on to their realization. Individually and collectively to play a far greater part in the world's affairs than we ever before dreamed is our privilege and duty. Have we the courage and humbleness to meet them without side-stepping in cool indifference?

We need \$75,000 to begin this program of education.

The audience is waiting! We are on the program. The American public has heard and read something about us, but with a short memory it easily becomes interested in other things. Are we going to stand up and play our part, or remain in the background?

We have passed through the fiery test of war. We are now entering the greater test of peace, bearing a torch which has been seen afar off. Shall it, or shall it not, flame even more brightly in peace times?

President Bishop then called upon Mr. Carl H. Milam, librarian of the Birmingham (Ala.) Public Library, to whom had been assigned the topic "Libraries for industrial plants, prisons, hospitals, merchant marine, coast guards, etc.," and he accordingly addressed the assembly:

Mr. Chairman, I will not have time to read the list of things I am supposed to talk about, but I am going to say a word about each. It seems to me that the American Library Association, whatever it plans to do, or however it plans to do it, should assume the responsibility of making itself the one big national organization which holds itself responsible for the development of library service, and for the provision of library service to all who may need it. That's a big responsibility, but who is going to assume it if we don't, and should

it not be assumed by somebody? It may involve lots of money, lots of time, and lots of work, but it seems to me we should assume it, under the circumstances. In no other way can we feel ourselves really doing our job.

I have been asked to speak especially about industrial plants, and I believe that the American Library Association might assume the same attitude toward industrial plants that is assumed by the Y. M. C. A. Why should not the American Library Association go down to some little industrial town in Virginia, for example, where they have no libraries, but should have, and offer to establish libraries if they will buy the books; the Y. M. C. A. gets away with it; why shouldn't we?

The same with hospitals. Some of you know that the Public Health Service is taking over certain hospitals and will maintain them indefinitely at Government expense for soldiers, sailors, and marines, and for men of the merchant marine, as well as employees of the Public Health Service. I have a telegram here urging me to bring to the attention of the Association the needs of a hospital, begging us to take over the work for a few months, and guaranteeing that such work will be carried on as a Government proposition after that time has elapsed. Should the Association not be in position to meet such needs when they are demonstrated?

The merchant marine—they are industrial men, in a way, but they are in a peculiar situation. They start from Philadelphia or New York today and they may get back in six months, or they may not get back until they are discharged, after five years. Have they claims on Philadelphia; have they claims on Pennsylvania? Where can they get their reading matter if we don't furnish it? I am urged to bring before the Association the needs of these men for reading matter, and to see that they get it in some way. It makes no difference how; they ought to have it, we recognize that they are begging for it. Shall we turn them down, or allow the responsibility to be taken by someone else?

The coast guard—in war times this division comes under the Navy, and so is receiving library war service, but in peace times that will not be continued. I wish I had time to read letters from men who visited coast guard stations, one from an officer who has seen something of our service in the camps, telling of a station where they had not had such service for twenty-five years.

At lighthouses we found they had old books bought many years ago and never changed. Many of them were "over the

heads" of the men for whom they were purchased, and were never used. The men would appreciate a library of carefully selected books.

These are some of the things I was asked to bring to your attention as possibilities for the American Library Association.

President Bishop having called upon the secretary for a statement, Mr. Utley spoke of the present difficulty of offering aid from A. L. A. headquarters to localities where no state library commission exists, and mentioned as one need the re-publication of certain useful pamphlets now out of print, and the provision of printed matter to supplement correspondence dealing with requests from points remote from other assistance.

He also touched upon the possibilities of reënforcing the work of library commissions in states where the commission finds it impossible to meet requests made upon it; and alluded to the needs of certain classes of individuals, among them the workers in logging camps, and groups especially requiring technical literature but distant from a center supplying it.

President Bishop announced as the subject of the next address, "An adequate library survey; what it would accomplish—what it involves—what it will cost," by Dr. Arthur E. Bostwick, librarian of the St. Louis Public Library, and chairman of the Committee of Five on Library Service, and Dr. Bostwick thereupon spoke as follows:

Promptness and energy are excellent qualities. We can't do much without them. But if a man were told that it was his duty to start tomorrow for Timbuctu, and with the requisite promptness and energy, started off at once, without knowing where Timbuctu was, without knowing the direction in which it lay, without knowing how to get there, and without knowing how much it would cost, he would not get far. His promptness and energy would not avail him. It strikes me that this is the description of a good deal of the work that we librarians have been trying to do in the last 50 years. We have had the requisite promptness and energy, but we have not had the facts before us. There never has been, and there is not now, a body of definitely ascertained facts with regard to the work that American librarians are doing. If we are to start off and

do anything whatever, and do it well, it seems to me that the first thing that we ought to do as a preliminary is to find what we are doing, and how we are doing it; and then we can give a little advice as to the importance and extension of the work.

Now, this work is going to be done somehow or other, because the president of the A. L. A. has appointed a committee for that purpose, and the committee has accepted the burden that has been laid upon them, and is going ahead; but it is the opinion of that committee that it is impossible for this work to be done adequately and completely without money. Exactly how we shall get this money, or whether we can get it at all, we don't know, but if it is decided to raise an endowment fund for the American Library Association, we are counting on receiving a small share of that to do this valuable and necessary preliminary work. Let there be no mistake; we shall go ahead with this work whether we have any money or not, but if we have to do it with volunteers, with the few hours or few minutes that hundreds of busy librarians can spare for it, it will not be done with the completeness and adequacy with which it ought to be done.

I want to give you an idea of the amount of money which the committee, after careful consideration, think will probably be necessary. We believe that the work of ascertaining everything that librarians are now doing over the United States will require at least two years of continuous investigation, and here is a budget for two years' expenditures, amounting to over \$44,000 a year, or a total of over \$88,000. We believe we should have, first of all, a competent director, a man who cannot be obtained for less than \$10,000 for the two years, or \$5,000 a year. He should have an assistant at \$3,000 a year, or \$6,000 for the two years. Clerical service, by which is meant chiefly typewriting and stenography, would cost \$7,500. Traveling expenses, the little traveling which the committee would do could be done for \$500 a year. We should have about six chief inspectors, one for each body of data that it is proposed to find out. That would cost about \$20,000. We have allowed \$5,000 for assistance, \$12,000 for the traveling expenses of the director and the assistants, \$10,000 for supplies and office expenses, \$2,000 for rent and \$15,000 for printing and publishing, a total for the two years of \$88,000.

If this should seem to you to be a large sum, we can only say that the committee started on a basis of \$50,000 and gradually

worked up to the present budget, it being thought that anything adequate and complete cannot be done under that figure. So there is the cost. We shall do it for nothing if we have to, but it cannot be done adequately and completely for less than that sum. A good many years ago the Rev. Dr. Slicer, one of the most clever and astute men that I ever had the pleasure of knowing, a minister in New York, told me a story. He said a woman who had lately lost her husband came to him in tears and said, "Dr. Slicer, my husband is gone. They tell me he is in heaven. Dr. Slicer, where is heaven?" He said he had never been so stumped as a clergyman in his life, but he quickly made the following reply: "Madam, I can best answer the question by giving you the experience of a friend of mine. He was in the Alps, and wanted to find a certain town. He met a herdsman on top of one of the hills and said, 'I want to go to such and such a town. Where is it?' The herdsman said, 'I don't know; I have never been there, and I cannot point it out, but if you will take this trail, I can assure you you will get there.' Now, I cannot tell you where heaven is, but I can tell you how to get there."

Now, friends of the American Library Association, I cannot, perhaps, tell you exactly the goal at which the committee is aiming, but I can tell you how to get there: GIVE US \$88,000!

President Bishop next called upon Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl, of the Indiana Library Commission, whose topic was "Extending library privileges to rural communities," and Mrs. Earl responded with the following remarks:

Of course I feel that this effort should be concentrated through the organizations of the state, and that we should concentrate the effort of the League of Library Commissions and the American Library Association on the growth and strengthening of commissions or other institutions circulating books in the states. The American Library Association should, in our opinion, have a department of library extension, with strong staff workers, and a commission on library commissions. Their duties should be to visit and study existing commissions, state libraries, traveling library systems, and states that need commissions.

Second, the Association should pass on to commission staffs, commissioners themselves, officials, legislators, and newspapers of the state in question any suggested changes in method, basic lines of organization, aim, personnel, or financial support.

Third, the A. L. A. should have information available for commissions on (1) matters of publicity throughout the state; (2) responsibility for professional training and standards; (3) needed legislation to strengthen the libraries of the state.

Fourth, the Association should act as a clearing-house for ideas on library work in rural communities—public libraries (county systems, township systems, stations versus wagon delivery; district supervision and book reservoirs); school libraries, taking in rural schools, high schools, and coöperation with town's public library, supervision of educational authorities or commission.

The primary aim of the Indiana Commission and the Indiana State Library is not to reach out and serve all the communities of the state, but to encourage the growth of local libraries which ultimately will serve every town and country district in the state. We have counties where we cannot "grow" a public library sentiment. We have library boards which sleep on, resenting any commission effort to arouse them to a feeling of responsibility for live library service in their own towns, to say nothing of surrounding districts. Commission workers on the staff of the A. L. A. would find some states similarly hard to work, perhaps, commissions that would not coöperate, but in the large, the results would be splendid. Strong commissions would not need help, but the weak, ill-supported commission would find it a constant source of assistance and suggestion. The states without commissions would be the particular charge of such a department and by working with the libraries of such states individually and through their state associations a local feeling of state responsibility could be developed which would get results.

Give the American Library Association funds for such a campaign of strengthening state organizations and work through these. There will be a development very similar to that which followed the introduction of the public library commission into the individual states. Not only will the number of bodies in charge of the state library work grow, but there will be a constant development of those already in existence which will correspond to the increase in strength and in area served, of the individual library when Commission organization, advice and standardization were made available. This method will strengthen library work in the rural districts of the country far more quickly and permanently than any attempt on the part of the A. L. A. to reach into the individual localities.

At the request of President Bishop the secretary read a report prepared by a special committee appointed to recommend to the Council some definite plan of procedure in the matter of expansion of A. L. A. work (see p. 338).

In the subsequent discussion Dr. Hill expressed a view that while the Association needed an endowment of a million dollars, this amount could be raised only by a general campaign, to inaugurate which would require \$50,000 or more; and that to start such a campaign, holding in mind a financial result appreciably less, would be a method injurious to the Association; that for the present the public has had enough of money campaigns, and library trustees are reluctant to allow further time just now, on the part of their staffs, for other than local library work.

In fairness to the proposition, however, Dr. Hill agreed with the suggestion of Mr. Walter L. Brown, chairman of the special committee having the matter under advisement, that a committee should be appointed to consider further and report upon plans for securing endowment; and the speaker thought if necessary a year's time should be given before a plan should be presented for operation.

Mr. Dana then spoke upon the question as follows:

I hesitate to express the thoughts that came to me as I listened to the papers and discussion this afternoon; for my mind runs in rather critical channels and when I have occasion to express myself I seem to be often misunderstood. Perhaps that is one of the penalties for possessing a rather critical type of mind? But I will venture nevertheless to speak my mind on a few points, all of which do not bear directly on the question of endowment. They all do, however, have reference to remarks made this afternoon.

It is commonly assumed that ours is a very important organization in the work of distributing and guiding reading. We have about 4,000 members. Perhaps 17,000 would cover all library workers of every kind and grade. There is in this country a public school system, which, outside of colleges, universities and special and professional schools, actively employs about 500,000 persons in teaching people how to

read and what to read. I call your attention to this contrast in numbers, with accompanying contrast in work done, because it is important that our organization orient itself, that is, note where it is in the world, before it undertakes a large new enterprise; and especially before it asks the public for a large sum that it may discover to itself its own greatness.

Our work is probably good; but to assume that it is relatively of great importance in the reading and teaching world is to assume too much.

I recently examined the last edition of a copy of Ayer's "Newspaper annual." If any of you feel that as librarians you are doing and have done a great work in the promotion of reading and in the guidance of reading, I suggest that you spend ten minutes in looking over this annual. You will find that the productive and directive power of the 17,000 persons in libraries is as nothing when compared with the like power of hundreds of thousands engaged in producing journals.

In the development of society this often happens: A certain organ is developed for a certain specified purpose, and fulfills that purpose. As society develops and changes that organ is less and less needed and less and less used. It ceases to do that which it formerly did. It is modified, or atrophied, or absorbed into the general system; and, as an active and working organ, finally disappears. Now, the library began many years ago as a collection of books, a collection first of a few written and then of a few printed things. Manuscripts and books were rare, and they were used by few; yet it was of the utmost importance that they be saved. The library was approved as a social organ to save the few books for the use of the few who used them. As time has gone on the function of the library as the preserver of manuscripts and books has become relatively of less and less importance. Printing is no longer confined to books. Things to read are countless in number, and some of them that are most ephemeral are in fact the most valuable. We have a thousand readers to-day for every score of readers of a few generations ago. The books of use to-day are chiefly the ones published yesterday. And they scarcely reach the library shelves before the ones published to-day are ready to take their places. Briefly, the whole system of informing the world through print has changed since libraries began. Indeed the whole system has changed so greatly since 1876 as to cause the library, as a conservator of books and a guide to their use, to occupy a very

minor place in society. Its old function of book preservation it retains; its later function of making all good print accessible to all seekers thereof is in large part usurped by scores of other agencies.

Look at Ayer's "Annual" for a moment and recall the activities in print distribution of the thousands of journals it notes and names; consider our school system and its work in teaching and guiding reading; then compare the work of our special social organ—the library—with that of these two (and I could mention others which are also great print-using guides and promoters) and I believe you will agree that what we now need is not an elaborate survey of our work, that we may do that work better by the light of that survey; but a study of the place of the library in present day society. Our special organ is not less active than it was; but its activities, no matter how effective in themselves, are relatively of far less importance than they were a few years ago. Probably we can do better work than we have ever done. It is quite possible that in the era of universal print-using that is coming upon us, the library can be of great value; but it is quite obvious that if it continues along present lines, it will, as a social organ, render each year a relatively smaller service to the whole social organism, and will sink in due course to the level of the outer ear and the caudal appendix in the human body.

We do not need a survey of library activities; we do need a study of the place of the library phenomenon in a print-using society.

An important change now taking place is closely connected with the subject of libraries in industrial plants which has been spoken of to-day. This change, which has been quite rapid in the past twenty years, has affected the men and the women of whom we generally speak as "working with their hands." These hand workers are coming into their own. They are, for the most part, gaining their new position in the utmost peace, soberly, and under the guidance of wise leaders.

My suggestion in regard to these people is, that if it is desirable that they have ready access to books, those books should come from themselves, being bought with their own earnings and made accessible on their own motion. By virtue of an efficient school system they should have within them a desire for the pleasure and profit books and journals can give; and, by virtue of an ample wage, they should be able to purchase them. Books should not

be put into their hands as a charity from any outside body. They should not come from employers, as a charity or even as something which justice demands. The men who work in industrial plants should see to it that they get a sufficient wage to enable them to secure for themselves all the reading they need in the guidance of their work, in the improvement of their own several capacities and in the happy spending of their hours of rest. I say "should see to it" only as meaning that the world would be better off if they did see to it. It is a great mistake for an outside organization to go to the managers of an industrial plant and ask them to give to their employees a few books and journals with which to improve or refresh themselves. Such a proceeding tends to keep men in that position of quasi-dependence where they have been too long, and where, if the signs do not mislead us, they will not long remain.

The change in the social order already mentioned seems to ask of us—to ask of such of us, at least, as are public servants in tax-supported institutions—that we go direct to the workers themselves and say, in effect, "These book and journal collections of which we have charge are for everyone, and therefore for you. We can help you to their wiser use and can help you also to select wisely such books and journals as you and your associates may care to gather for private use or for a special collection adapted to the needs of all who work with you in your special plant."

We can safely assume that the coming workman will ask books of his public library—or buy his own.

We have had talk here of a survey, to cost \$80,000, of conditions in libraries in the United States.

If we are to have a survey, it should be, first of all, of our own headquarters. Not of the persons there engaged in doing our bidding; but of headquarters as the center of our activities. We are talking to-day of asking for a large endowment to extend our work and to advertise our excellence and our power. We have had an endowment for some seventeen years, and have received from it and expended on publishing in those seventeen years, nearly \$100,000. It would be difficult for you to show that in the seventeen years in which we have spent \$5,000 a year on our publications, over and above receipts from sales, we have extended knowledge of ourselves to an extent worth mentioning.

We have published with the proceeds of our endowment a monthly list of the best

new books, with notes as to character and value. These notes were written with no reference to the demands of a business office and with no thought of advertisers. No better descriptive notes of like range and purpose have ever appeared in this country. But we have acquired no merit in the world of readers and buyers through their publication. We compiled and printed them at an annual cost of nearly \$6,000 over and above the income from sales, and then we insisted on concealing them from the general public. We concealed them by their form, and their title, and by declining to advertise them. And now, having thus used for years an endowment of \$100,000, we talk of asking for more!

The thing that stands in the way of efficient work by the American Library Association is primarily lack of brains on the part of its members: there is no use blinking that fact. If we are not doing good work as an Association, we cannot lay the blame for our failure upon individuals, save as just suggested, or upon our form of organization. But, it is very probable that if we were to change the form of our constitution, as your president suggested this morning, and put into the hands of four or five persons, or even as few as three, authority to conduct our affairs, and left them almost undisturbed in that conduct, we would get more good work done than we do now. We adopted our present constitution, if I am not mistaken, in 1902—seventeen years ago. The association was much smaller then than it is now. It was burdened with traditions of method and concerning the place of libraries in the world. The constitution we adopted was an outgrowth of previous ones, and carried over much of the old machinery. Obstacles to active and efficient work in the form of special committees and boards, and of limitations of powers, that had crept into the old form, were included in and made a part of the new one.

About ten years ago, I offered to the Association a form of constitution covering one typewritten page. I had had it passed upon by men of affairs, who said that if they were concerned with the organization and management of a body like ours, that was the kind of constitution that they would like to have. It was published in *Public Libraries* and presented to the Association; but received little or no consideration. In view of what I have said to-day, more especially in view of the admirable remarks made by your president yesterday evening on the need of a change

in our fundamental law, I shall, if I can, cause this to be printed in our newspaper, *The Use of Print*, tomorrow or next day, and, if an opportunity comes, present it to the Association for consideration. A radical change in our constitution is the first step toward surveying ourselves, toward getting publicity that is worth while, and toward becoming a more efficient organization.

Mr. Tripp spoke in favor of a library survey as a part of the A. L. A. program of future expansion, and called attention to the present failure of both the libraries and schools of the nation to elevate the literary taste of the people above the mental food contained in the average Sunday newspaper.

Mr. Henderson suggested as the first step toward A. L. A. expansion a survey of library conditions throughout the country, to formulate definitely information upon which to base a campaign for money; and stated that, because philanthropy had provided generously for library establishment, the idea should not be allowed to gain that libraries are luxuries to be established from the beneficence of millionaires; rather should the library movement become a part of the education system—a matter to be dealt with through public legislation for the entire people, instead of for the benefit of private groups.

Mr. Bliss urged the county library system as the most satisfactory solution of conducting successful library work, rather than methods of working at longer range through traveling libraries and from state capitals as centers; and he voiced concurrence in the idea that the A. L. A. should not attempt to provide for individuals or for certain classes of people—whether segregated in an industrial plant or as soldiers or sailors—but should extend its work in strengthening libraries and library work in general throughout its field.

Miss Hitchler defended the establishment by the A. L. A. of libraries in certain industrial plants, with the argument that it does not always seem best to suggest to the starving that future legislation intends to serve them.

Mr. Brigham returned to the point of securing endowment, and claimed that publicity would obtain this; that by placing library service strongly in the public mind, a powerful campaign for funds would become possible.

Mr. Bowker closed the discussion with some general observations, concluding in these words:

The field of library extension is wide, and the only great national agency to push forward this work is the A. L. A. The great "Battle hymn of the Republic" ends with the stirring words—"His soul is marching on." The A. L. A. has found its soul in time of war; in the greater times of peace its soul should still be marching on.

Mr. Walter L. Brown then moved that the Council recommend to the Executive Board the appointment of a committee of not less than five to consider the question of an endowment for peace time work and to report within a year.

The motion, which was seconded by Dr. Hill, was concurred in.

The session was then adjourned.

SECOND SESSION

The second session of the Council, held on Thursday afternoon, June 26, was an open meeting, attended by about 300, in addition to a quorum of the Council.

The following five persons were elected to the Council by the Council for a term of five years each: Clara F. Baldwin, June R. Donnelly, Everett R. Perry, Alice S. Tyler and Purd B. Wright.

The secretary read a petition signed by members of the Lending Department Round Table, requesting that this body be made a section of the Association.

Voted, That a committee be appointed to consider the petition and report to the Council with recommendation, in accordance with the constitution.

Prof. F. J. Teggart, of the University of California, secretary of the International Bibliographical Congress, was introduced by the president, and addressed the assembly upon "Plans for an international

bibliography of humanistic studies," speaking substantially as follows:

Humanistic literature embraces the studies centering around man. There is no index to this literature. The material is not available. It is on the shelves of libraries and is not being used for lack of a direct, immediate key to the material. We cannot understand the world outside if we think that all the knowledge in Europe and Asia is already to be found in the English language. We must pass on from "Poole's Index" to realize the extent of the literature available in all the languages of Europe, in relation to mankind not only in Europe but in all parts of the globe. We want to make the knowledge of man completely available for American institutions.

There are at least 2,000 periodicals not indexed in the *Reader's Guide* or in "Poole's Index" which would come within the scope of this humanistic index. There are 600 in French which would come within it. All this material should be indexed to be at the service of the American people in the great developments that are ahead of us. In 1914 there were being published in Germany over seventy-five indexes that came within the scope of such an index.

Lists have been unsatisfactory; (1) by the type of their arrangement it was hard to find things; (2) the divisions of the field represented by these different indexes have been such that it is hard for anyone using them to tell what he would find in them; there has also been a tremendous amount of overlapping; (3) many important subjects have been entirely ignored; (4) none of these indexes has been up to date.

The British Academy took up the matter of getting up a catalog of humanistic literature. The American Association of University Professors took up the question in 1917 and appointed a committee which did not come into active existence until the end of 1918, when the Association asked to take charge of the work and also to see if it could not be put into execution. The American Association of University Professors has in view our taking the leadership in the scholarship of the world.

The success of this problem turns entirely upon the coöperation of the libraries. We propose to prepare an international bibliography of humanistic literature in the sense that I have given to that term, but we propose that it should be through the joint offices of the American Library Association and the American As-

sociation of University Professors. My idea is that the A. L. A. should appoint a committee to coöperate with the committee of the American Association of University Professors in the preparation and publication of the bibliography.

The next proceeding is the vital step in the whole matter, and that is the question of finance. To get the index going in anything approaching a satisfactory form would take at least \$25,000 a year. We propose that a maximum of any subscription to this index should be \$500 a year. The real problem then comes up, what libraries are to subscribe to it.

Professor Teggart then explained that if more than twenty-five libraries should subscribe, the cost would be proportionately reduced. He also expressed the hope that subscriptions might be obtained from museums and other educational and historical associations, and that private subscriptions might be secured.

In conclusion he said:

The whole problem of getting this bibliographical enterprise on its feet rests upon the libraries. The professors of the country could help in the work but they could not directly help in raising or getting subscriptions to the work and this is a matter that the libraries should take up.

Mr. Keogh presented the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted, Mr. Carlton, Mr. Wyer and Mr. Bishop speaking in its endorsement:

RESOLVED, That the Council of the American Library Association, recognizing the urgent need for an international bibliography of humanistic literature, cordially endorses the plan as outlined by Mr. F. J. Teggart; and further be it

RESOLVED, That there be appointed an advisory committee of four to coöperate with the American Association of University Professors in supervising the preparation and publication of the bibliography.

On motion of Mr. Wyer, Mr. Frank A. Vanderlip was made an honorary member of the American Library Association, in recognition of his valued services to the Association as chairman of its Library War Council and as its representative on the Committee of Eleven.

Miss Alice S. Tyler, director of Western Reserve University Library School, being

called upon by the chairman, spoke on a bill now before Congress for the creation of a department of education with a Secretary of Education in the President's cabinet.

Having explained that the bill was introduced into the last Congress and is known as the Smith-Towner bill, Miss Tyler read portions of it, calling attention to Section 3, referring to the transfer to the department of education of certain offices, divisions or branches of the Government.

The speaker further said:

Our interest in this bill of course is our interest in the large field of education, of which the library is a part. The time has come when librarians should become articulate on this question of education. We have depended on the schools to define the word education and then we complain that the definition is too limited. It seems to me that now is the time for librarians to attempt to express in some measure our understanding of that great word, education. There is a unique educational function for the American library with its unequaled field which a democracy provides.

Having brought to notice Section 10, referring to the appropriation of five-tenths of the amount involved for the use of public, elementary and secondary schools for the partial payment of teachers' salaries and particularly for the extension and adoption of public libraries for educational purposes, Miss Tyler concluded by saying:

It seems to me that what the American Library Association at this time naturally wants to do is to stand back of this bill. The bill was introduced at the request of the National Education Association, which is standing solidly back of it, as is also the American Federation of Labor. The Federation of Women's Clubs actively supports it. I feel that we will do ourselves credit and encourage those who have charge of the bill, and especially those who are interested in having libraries included therein, if this organization shall through the Council approve of the passage of the bill. It is hoped there will be a bureau of libraries if the department of education is created. I wish therefore that we may have a resolution that will put this Association on record as approving of this bill.

Mr. Hadley also spoke in favor of the

bill, after which the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, That the Council of the American Library Association endorses the educational bill (H. R. 7) introduced into the House of Representatives by the Hon. Horace M. Towner, and urges upon the Congress of the United States the early consideration and adoption of this measure.

Miss Edith Guerrier then being called upon by the chairman, spoke in regard to the National Library Service, briefly summarizing the work that is being accomplished in the furnishing to librarians of information relative to the assistance available to libraries in the publications of the various departments and bureaus of the Federal Government.

Referring to a bill now before Congress providing for the continuation and extension of this service, Miss Guerrier stated that she would keep the Association in-

formed of the progress of this bill in order that librarians may secure for it all possible support.

At the close of Miss Guerrier's remarks the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, There has been established, and is in active operation in the Bureau of Education, a National Library Service, which has furnished the libraries of the United States with valuable information concerning Government publications and affairs; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association endorses the work of the National Library Service and respectfully requests its continuance in the Bureau of Education; further be it

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Secretary of the Interior and to the Commissioner of Education.

The session was thereupon duly adjourned.

AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES SECTION

A meeting of the Agricultural Libraries Section of the American Library Association was held in the ball room of the New Monterey Hotel at 3:00 p. m., June 26, 1919. About forty persons were present, including representatives from the agricultural college libraries of Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, North Dakota, Vermont, and West Virginia, and thirteen from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Miss Vera M. Dixon, assistant librarian, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, presided as chairman. In the absence of Miss Lucy E. Fay, the secretary of the section, the chairman requested Miss E. R. Oberly, librarian of the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, to act as secretary for the meeting.

The program comprised a paper on practical library service, containing helpful suggestions for those interested in library extension, a stimulating paper on bibliography, and the discussion of a practical plan for a coöperative piece of work of wide usefulness.

Miss Dixon sketched the accomplishments of the Agricultural Libraries Section since its first meeting at Mackinac in

1910, among the most notable of which was the bringing about of the publication of the *Agricultural Index* by the H. W. Wilson Company.

Mr. Milton J. Ferguson, librarian of the California State Library, presented a paper entitled

GETTING BOOKS TO THE FARMER IN CALIFORNIA (See p. 137)

Mr. Ferguson described the county library system, the latest development in the state system, which includes all library activities, municipal, state and others, and which shows the energy, foresight and coöperative spirit, which the State of California exhibits in so many fields.

Miss Marjorie F. Warner, bibliographical assistant, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, suggested for consideration

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL OPPORTUNITIES IN HORTICULTURE (See p. 178)

This scholarly paper not only showed a thorough knowledge of the literature of horticulture, but also contained many interesting and stimulating suggestions con-